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RECREATION  
MAP

SIERRA  
NATIONAL  
FOREST

INFORMATION  
FOR  
MOUNTAIN  
TRAVELERS

1916  
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# SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

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This map is issued as a guide to travelers who may desire to make use of the Sierra National Forest as a place for recreation. The recreational features of this Forest constitute one of its chief values.

## LOCATION AND RESOURCES.

The Sierra National Forest with an area of 1,492,369 acres, lies on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains between the Kings River on the south and the Merced River and the south boundary of the Yosemite National Park on the north, and is bounded on the east by the main divide of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The airline distance from north to south is about 60 miles, from east to west about 85 miles. It lies almost entirely in the counties of Madera and Fresno. The maximum elevation within the Forest is 14,254 feet above sea level; the minimum, 500 feet.

The Forest contains the canyons of the North and Middle Forks of Kings River and the canyon of San Joaquin River, which are famed for depth and ruggedness. Probably no other region of equal size in the United States contains more magnificent scenery than the Sierra National Forest. The Devil's Post Pile (a National Monument), the Rainbow Falls of the San Joaquin, the Tehipite Dome, Mt. Goddard, and the North Palisade are well-known features. The Forest contains two groves of big trees (*Sequoia washingtoniana*), the Nelder and McKinley, while the Mariposa Grove of big trees, within the Yosemite National Park, is contiguous to the northern boundary.

It contains over 10 billion board feet of timber, valued at more than \$13,000,000. It provides watershed protection for 1,600,000 acres of irrigable land in the San Joaquin Valley and for large water-power developments.

## CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

The climate of the high Sierras is characterized by clear, warm, sunny days and cold nights, with frost on the open plateaus. Summer rains occur only in the

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higher regions and are usually accompanied by severe lightning.

In general, the Sierra National Forest is open to travel up to 6,000 feet elevation by May 15. Above that altitude the snow usually remains until about July 1. Snow falls again about October 1 in the high country and about a month later below 5,000 feet.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

The headquarters of the Sierra National Forest is at Northfork, Cal. The Forest is divided into five ranger districts, each in charge of a district ranger and a corps of assistants engaged in fire protection, improvement work, and administration. The locations of ranger stations are marked on the map.

#### FISHING AND HUNTING.

Within the region comprising the Sierra National Forest are to be found excellent fishing and hunting. Specific information is given in this folder in the paragraph headed "Routes," concerning fishing in different parts of the Forest.

Mountain quail, grouse, and deer are plentiful.

Forest officers will gladly give such current information as is available regarding the presence of game and fish in various places. Fishermen and hunters are requested to report conditions for the benefit of others.

#### AID TO CAMPERS.

Forest officers will also gladly give information that may help make the traveler's stay in the Forest a pleasant one. Campers' registers are kept at the headquarters of the Forest Supervisor and the Forest rangers and at other places designated on the map. Travelers are urged to enter their names and addresses and their intended routes. Rangers ride continually through the Forest, and a traveler needed on account of sickness or accident can usually be found by the rangers when his route of travel is known. Travelers when registering can obtain copies of "The Campers' Handbook" which contains much useful information about camping in the National Forests.



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## HORSE FEED.

Public pastures about a day's journey apart have been reserved along many of the main trails. In addition, many areas have been reserved from grazing by cattle or sheep, to provide feed for travelers' stock. All told, the range reserved for travelers' stock is 24,221 acres.

## ROUTES.

There are three main routes of entrance to the back country, which is the goal of most travelers. From Mariposa, Merced, Raymond, and Madera, good roads lead to the mountains north of the San Joaquin River. The points of particular interest in this territory are:

1. The Mariposa Groves of big trees and the Yosemite National Park, reached by the road that leads from Mariposa to Wawona, or by that from Madera and Raymond via Coarsegold and Grub Gulch, Ahwahnee, and Miami.

2. The high mountain country tributary to the North and Middle Forks of the San Joaquin River, reached by wagon road to the head of Crane Valley, where the big reservoir of the San Joaquin Light and Power Company is located. The lake here is stocked with trout and large mouthed black bass, and fishing is excellent.

From the head of Crane Valley, travelers can reach the back country over a rough wagon road leading through the Soquel Basin and by Beasore and Jackass Meadows. The road ends at Granite Creek. A trail also leaves Crane Valley on the east side of the lake near The Pines, a summer resort, and runs to Jackass and Beasore Meadows via Poison Meadow and Texas flat. From the Soquel Basin, it is but a short side trip to the Fresno Grove of big trees located in Sec. 5, T. 6 S., R. 22 E. The attractions of the Sierras north of the San Joaquin River are many, and include the Minarets, the Soda Springs on the Middle Fork, the famous Devil's Post Pile, the Rainbow Falls of the San Joaquin, and Shadow Lake, lying on the eastern slope of the Minarets. Excellent fishing can be found in most tributaries of the San Joaquin. Trout is abundant.



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Public pastures have been established at Big Buck Meadow, at Soldier Meadow (called on U. S. G. S. sheets "Little Jackass,") and at 77 Corral Meadow. All these pastures are along or near the main Mammoth Trail.

3. The high mountain country south and east of the San Joaquin River. This back country is reached by rail and wagon road. The San Joaquin & Eastern Railroad, which leaves the Friant Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad at El Prado, reaches Big Creek via Auberry and Big Sandy Valleys, José Basin, etc. **The road is one of the real scenic roads of the United States.** At its eastern terminal, Big Creek, outfits for tourists may be obtained, and good trails into the high mountain country will be found south of the San Joaquin River. These trails lead over the Kaiser Pass and down to the Mono Hot Springs and the South Fork of the San Joaquin. There is a good mountain resort at Huntington Lake, 5 miles by stage from the terminus of the San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad at Cascada. Guests can find first-class fishing in the lake which has been recently stocked with several species of trout.

The main back country trail, known as the Mono Trail, leaves Shaver, which is accessible from the San Joaquin Valley by good automobile road, and crosses to the South Fork of the San Joaquin, whence many points of interest to the tourist can be reached. Fishing is good in most of the streams of this locality.

A public pasture is located at Rancheria Creek near the head of Huntington Lake. This is an easy day's trip with horses from either Shaver or Big Creek. A public pasture has also been inclosed at Mono Hot Springs, on the South Fork of the San Joaquin River, a short day's ride from Rancheria Pasture. There is still another public pasture on Mono Creek, 1½ miles from Mono Hot Springs. An area at the head of Vermilion Valley on the Mono has also been set aside for a public pasture.

From Blaney Meadow on the South Fork of the San Joaquin, where there are 5 hot springs, a main trail leads up the river and leaving it at the mouth of French



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Canyon follows the canyon to its head and crosses the main divide leading down to Bishop and other points on the eastern slopes of the Sierras. French Canyon has been bridged near its junction with the South Fork, and a good trail leads up the latter stream to the Evolution and Mt. Goddard country.

For those desiring to go to the wonderful mountain country north of Kings River, an automobile road from Shaver to Dinkey is available. At this latter place are a district ranger's headquarters and a public pasture. From Dinkey, well blazed and signed trails lead south-east to the McKinley Grove of big trees, the North Fork of Kings River, and into the Middle Rock of this stream via Cliff Camp, Crown Valley, and the Tehipite.

A day's riding on the trail from the end of the wagon road at Dinkey brings one to the public pasture at Buck Meadow, while on the same trail, at the end of the next day, horse feed can be found in the Crown Rock Public Pasture, near Crown Valley, on the main Kings River Trail.

The Tehipite Dome, which is one of the famous scenic features of the Sierra Nevadas, and the entire canyon of the Middle Fork of Kings River are now accessible by a good trail leading from the plateau above Tehipite Valley down into the canyon and up the stream to Simpson Meadow, one of the most delightful spots in the mountains. Horse feed is abundant here. Fishing is unsurpassed on the Middle Fork, and, in fact, is good in most of the tributaries of Kings River.

#### THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL.

In 1915, at the instance of the Sierra Club, the State Legislature appropriated \$10,000 toward the construction of a trail from Yosemite National Park to Mount Whitney, along the High Sierras, through the Sierra and the Sequoia National Forests. The actual construction was turned over by the State Engineer to the Forest Service, and work was begun as soon as the appropriation was available—in August, 1915. The section of the route from Blaney Meadow to Muir Pass was completed and the preliminary section from Simpson Meadow to Grouse Valley was almost completed during the summer of 1915. It is expected that the

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greater part of the remainder of the trail as laid out across the Sierra National Forest will be finished during 1916.

#### SUMMER HOMES.

Application may be made to any Forest officer for the rental of recreation camp, summer home, or resort sites. Sites surveyed and mapped in various parts of the Forest are rented for short or long periods. Occupants may erect their own camps and homes. Timber for the construction of homes can often be granted free of charge. The annual rental for summer home sites ranges from \$5 to \$25 a year. About the picturesque shores of Huntington Lake, desirable lots are now obtainable.

#### RESTRICTIONS.

No restrictions as to hunting and fishing, other than the State Game Laws (pages 10-11) are operative on the National Forests. Campers are welcome and are free to come and go when and where they wish. No permits of any sort are required. Travelers within, and occupants of the Sierra National Forest will be held responsible, however, for compliance with the rules for fire and sanitation, which are found elsewhere on this folder.

#### SANITATION.

Burn all kitchen refuse in the camp fire; it will not affect the cooking. Burn everything—coffee grounds, parings, bones, meat, even old tin cans—for if thrown out anywhere, even buried, they may attract flies. Refuse once burned will not attract flies.

If burning is impracticable, dig a hole for the refuse, leaving the earth piled up on the edge, and cover every addition with a layer of dirt.

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## COOPERATION WITH FISH AND GAME COMMISSION.

The Forest Service and the California Fish and Game Commission work in conjunction. All permanent Forest officers of the Sierra National Forest are Deputy Fish and Game Commissioners in charge of the enforcement of the Fish and Game Laws.

Hundreds of thousands of trout fry have been distributed by the State Fish and Game Commission, in cooperation with the Forest Service, in many of the lakes and streams of the Sierra Forest during the past three years.

The recent total distribution made in Madera and Fresno counties by the Commission is as follows:

### 1912 DISTRIBUTION.

Six unnamed lakes above The Pines, 30,000 eastern brook; Shaver Lake, 35,000 Loch Leven; San Benito Creek, 18,000 rainbow; Lewis and Hogue creeks, 8,757 rainbow; Miami Creek, 17,514 rainbow; Woodward Creek, 5,838 rainbow; Grove Creek, 5,838 rainbow; Grouse and Crescent lakes, 52,030 black spotted; small lakes near Crane Valley, 36,000 Lock Leven.

### 1913 DISTRIBUTION.

Big Creek, 40,000 Loch Leven, 12,000 black spotted; Mill Creek, 15,000 Loch Leven; Ranier Creek, 12,000 black spotted; Hogue Creek, 10,000 black spotted; Thompson Creek, 8,000 black spotted.

### 1914 DISTRIBUTION.

South Fork of Kings River, 8,000 eastern brook, 8,000 Loch Leven; Balsam Creek, 4,000 rainbow; Big Creek, 8,000 Loch Leven, 36,000 black spotted; Pitman Creek, 4,000 eastern brook; Huntington Lake, 50,000 rainbow, 90,000 eastern brook, 44,000 Loch Leven; Ranier Creek, 14,000 black spotted, 6,000 large lake; Sugar Pine and Mill Creek, 8,000 black spotted; Big-tree Creek, 12,000 black spotted; Shadow Lake and Shadow Creek, Garnet Lake and Agnew Creek, 521 golden.

In many of the creeks, Desolation Lake, Piute Creek, Heart Lake, Marie Lake, Bear Creek, Horse Corral



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Creek, South Fork of Kings River, Lewis Creek, Two Kennedy lakes, Slide Canyon Lake and Creek, 1,416 golden trout were distributed.

#### 1915 DISTRIBUTION.

Huntington Lake and tributaries, 100,000 Loch Leven, 70,000 rainbow; Stevenson Creek, 6,000 rainbow; Balsam Creek, 4,000 rainbow; Alder Creek, 2,000 rainbow; Pitman Creek, 4,000 rainbow; Bacon Creek, tributary to Shaver Lake, 20,000 rainbow; North Fork San Joaquin River, 26,000 rainbow.

#### OPEN SEASONS FOR FISH AND GAME.

The Sierra National Forest is situated entirely within Fish and Game District 1. In this district the open seasons and bag limit for the years 1915 to 1917, inclusive, are as follows :

Deer, August 15 to October 15; 2 bucks per season; Rabbits (cottontail and brush), October 16 to December 31; 15 per day, 30 per week; Tree squirrels, September 1 to December 31; 12 per season; Ducks, geese, brants, mudhens, October 12 to January 31; 25 per day, 50 per week; Wilson snipe, black breasted plover, yellow-legs, golden plover, October 16 to January 31; 15 per day, 30 per week; Valley and desert quail, October 16 to December 31; 15 per day, 30 per week; Mountain quail or grouse, September 1 to November 30; 10 mountain quail per day, 20 per week; 4 grouse per day, 8 per week; Sage hen, September 1 to November 30; 4 per day, 8 per week; Dove, September 1 to November 30; 15 per day; Trout, May 1 to November 30; 50 fish, or 10 pounds and one fish, or one fish weighing 10 pounds or over per day; Golden trout, July 16 to October 15; 20 per day, 5 inches, minimum length; Black bass, May 1 to November 30; 25 per day, 7 inches, minimum length; Sacramento perch, sunfish, crappie, May 1 to November 30; 25 per day; Striped bass, catfish, shad, January 1 to December 31; 5 per day—under 3 pounds at any time.

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## EXCERPTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME LAWS, 1915-1917.

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### IT IS ALWAYS UNLAWFUL

To hunt birds or animals, except predatory species, without first having procured a hunting license.

To fish for any game fish without first having procured an angler's license.

To fail to show any hunting, fishing, or wholesale dealer's license, upon demand, to any duly authorized officer.

To refuse to show any game fish in possession upon the demand of any duly authorized officer.

To make a false statement upon the application blank for any hunting or fishing license.

To sell fish or game at wholesale without having first procured a dealer's license.

To take game or fish from one district to another when the season is not open in both districts.

To shoot resident game between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise, or to shoot migratory game between sunset and sunrise.

To fish for trout between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

To ship game or game fish in concealed packages, or without a tag bearing the name and address of the consignee, the contents of the package, and the name and address of the shipper.

To take, kill, or have in possession any doe, fawn, spike buck, antelope, mountain sheep, beaver, or sea otter.

To kill an elk; the felony is punishable by two years imprisonment.

To kill a sea otter; the offense is punishable by \$1,000 fine.

To have in possession any doe or fawn skins, or any deer skins from which the evidence of sex is removed.

To use more than one dog to the hunting person in hunting deer.



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To take or kill any wild pheasant, swan, bobwhite quail, imported quail, partridge, or wild turkey.

To take any trout, black bass, Sacramento perch, crappie, bluegill sunfish, or green sunfish except with hook and line in the manner commonly known as angling.

To net, trap, or hold any protected game or birds of any kind, or their nests or eggs, without having procured written authority from the Fish and Game Commission.

To take or kill nongame birds, except blue jay, butcher bird, English sparrow, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, duck hawk, great horned owl, or California linnet.

To take fish in any way within 150 feet of a fishway.

To buy, sell, or offer for sale any wild trout under 12 inches in length.

To fail to retain in possession during the open season, and for 10 days after the close thereof, the skin and portion of the head bearing the horns of any deer killed.

#### STATE LICENSES.

Hunting and noncommercial fishing licenses can be obtained from the State Fish and Game Commission at San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and Fresno; from the County Clerks, or from the Forest Supervisor and Forest rangers.

Licenses are sold at the following rates per year:

**Hunting licenses** (July 1 to June 30), citizens resident of California, \$1; citizens nonresident of California, \$10; aliens, \$25. These may be obtained at the Forest Supervisor's office or any District Ranger's headquarters.

**Noncommercial fishing licenses** (January 1 to December 31), citizens resident of California, \$1; citizens nonresident of California, \$3; aliens, \$3.

No license required of any person under 18 years of age.

For any further information or for copies of game laws, address State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners, San Francisco, Cal., or any Forest officer.

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## SIX RULES FOR PREVENTION OF FIRES IN THE MOUNTAINS.

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1. **MATCHES.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

2. **TOBACCO.**—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stumps in the dust of the road and stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

3. **MAKING CAMP.**—Build a small camp fire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away the trash from all around it.

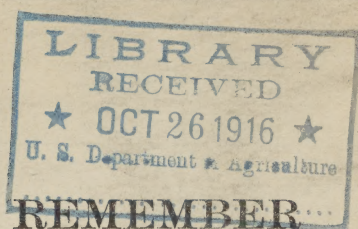
4. **LEAVING CAMP.**—Never leave a camp fire, even for a short time, without quenching it with water and earth.

5. **BONFIRES.**—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.

6. **FIGHTING FIRES.**—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word of it to the nearest U. S. forest ranger or State fire warden at once. Keep in touch with the rangers.

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The National Forests are the great recreation grounds of the nation. They contain immense amounts of valuable timber needed for the development of the country.

Damage to the Forests means loss to you as well as to thousands of others.

**BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE**

**DON'T POLLUTE THE STREAMS**

**LEAVE YOUR CAMP SITE CLEAN**

The National Forests belong to the people. Don't impair the value of your own property by damaging them.

This folder describes the recreation features of the Sierra National Forest. The map shows you the roads, trails, and other things you want to know.

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The purposes of this and of the other National Forests are to assure the perpetuation of the timber supply, to prevent the destruction of the forest cover which regulates the flow of streams, to preserve the areas as public recreation grounds, and, in general, to provide for the wisest use of all resources.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
HENRY S. GRAVES, FORESTER

# SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA  
MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN  
1916

NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY

- LEGEND
- Railroad station
  - Stage station
  - S Supplies obtainable
  - G Gasoline obtainable
  - P Pack and saddle stock obtainable
  - G Guidon packers, etc. obtainable
  - R Ranchers where butter, milk, eggs, etc. can be obtained
  - M Meals and lodging
  - ▲ Forest ranger station—information obtainable
  - Auto stage route
  - Road possible for autos
  - Road possible for wagons
  - Trail or route possible for pack outfit
  - Trail or route possible for foot travel only
  - Meadow—stock grazing permitted
  - Meadow—stock grazing not permitted
  - Meadow—fenced for use of travelling public
  - Meadow—fenced for use of Forest rangers only
  - Forest area—particularly interesting
  - National Forest timber sales—cut over or in operation
  - ▲ Forest Service fire lookout station
  - ▲ Forest Service fire tool cache
  - TLP Telephone station
  - P Post office
  - Area geographically interesting
  - Area botanically interesting
  - Mountain to climb (with safest route to top)
  - Area containing particularly attractive camping sites
  - UNEXPLORED Area little known
  - Good fishing stream or lake
  - Stocked stream or lake
  - Barrier impassable by fish
  - Waterfall
  - Canyon
  - Point from which wide view is obtained
  - Fish and game licenses for sale here
  - Area where game is abundant
  - Area of special scenic interest
  - District ranger headquarters
  - District ranger summer home
  - Ranger's camp

